

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 CU-02 HEW-02

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FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1180

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CO

SUBJECT: LEFTISTS LAUNCH PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE AGAINST MILITARY  
TRIAL OF 28 MEMBERS OF ELN

1. SUMMARY. NAMING OF RUSSELL PEACE TRIBUNAL OBSERVER AT  
MILITARY COURT-MARTIAL OF 28 SUPPOSED LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF  
COLOMBIAN POPULAR LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) IS LATEST MOVE IN LEFTIST  
PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE AIMED AT DISCREDITING TRIAL AND ONE

LIKELY TO  
HAVE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. OCT. 8, MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF MEDELLIN'S FOURTH BRIGADE

INITIATED PRELIMINARY HEARINGS AT COURT-MARTIAL OF 28 PERSONS  
(INCLUDING ONE WOMAN, AND SIX PERSONS STILL AT-LARGE) ACCUSED OF  
BEING EITHER LEADERS OR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF ELN URBAN GUERRILLA  
NETWORKS IN DEPARTMENTS OF ANTIOQUIA, CALDAS, AND RIE RALDA.  
HEARINGS WERE INITIATED IN COMPLETE SECRECY, WITH PRESS, FAMILIES  
OF ACCUSED, AND PUBLIC BARRED. FOUR OF 28, INCLUDING FRANCISCO

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LUIS ASPRILLA RAMIREZ, SUPPOSED POLITICAL SECRETARY OF REGIONAL

ELN COMMITTEE, HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RELEASED BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE. FORMAL TRIAL SESSIONS WERE INITIATED OCT. 19, AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NOV. 4.

3. LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS HAVE AFFORDED TRIAL SCANT ATTENTION. HOWEVER, LEFTIST PUBLICATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, MOST NOTABLY WEEKLY "ALTERNATIVA" (DIRECTED BY NOTED COMMUNIST WRITER GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ) HAVE MAINTAINED STEADY PROPAGANDA BARRAGE AIMED AT DISCREDITING TRIAL. MOST SIGNIFICANT MOVE HAS BEEN NAMING BY RUSSELL PEACE TRIBUNAL OF PROMINENT MEDELLIN

JURIST, CARLOS GAVIRIA DIAZ, TO OBSERVE TRIAL AND TO SUBMIT REPORT TO TRIBUNAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. GARCIA MARQUEZ, WHO IS ALSO VICE-PRESIDENT OF TRIBUNAL FOR LATIN AMERICA, WAS REPORTEDLY INSTRUMENTAL IN NAMING OF GAVIRIA. TO DATE, LEFTIST CHARGES THE FAMILIAR ONES THERE: VERDICTS ALREADY DECIDED; JUDICIAL IRREGULARITIES BEING COMMITTED; EVIDENCE IS FAKED OR NONEXISTENT; AND, PRISONERS BEING TORTURED (PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY).

4. REACTION BY COLOMBIAN MEDIA TO RUSSELL TRIBUNAL INTERVENTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY MUTED. EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN: (A) COLUMN UNDER PEN NAME OF PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE JOURNALIST IN MEDELLIN DAILY "EL IZLOMBIANO", WHICH ATTACKED RUSSELL TRIBUNAL,

AND PARTICULARLY GARCIA MARQUEZ, FOR ONE-SIDED CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OF LEFTISTS, WHILE IGNORING CRIMES THEY COMMIT

(IN COLOMBIA, CUBA, AND SOVIET UNION) AGAINST RIGHTS OF INNOCENT AND OFTEN HUMBLE VICTIMS; AND, (B) SIMILAR, BUT MORE STRIDENT COLUMN, CARRIED BY CONSERVATIVE DAILY (. 3) 8&9".

5. FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER, GENERAL MONTANEZ, INFORMED THAT OBSERVER GARRIA HAS BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO ATTEND SESSIONS OF COURT-MARTIAL AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO PRISONERS. MONTANEZ INDICATED THAT HE AND OFFICERS DIRECTING TRIAL ARE UNCONCERNED

WITH RUSSELL TRIBUNAL ACTION WHICH, HE STATED, IS TO BE EXPECTED FROM LEFTISTS WHO ALWAYS DEFEND THEIR OWN. HOWEVER, HE DEcriED TIMOROUS AND PASSIVE POSITION ON PARTS OF COLOMBIAN CENTER AND RIGHT, WHICH ARE NOT ADEQUATELY DEFENDING COLOMBIAN DEMOCRACY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. AS EXAMPLES, HE CITED NOT ONLY FAILURE OF THIS SILENT MAJORITY TO PROVIDE AUTHORITIES WITH MINIMAL COOPERATION AND INFORMATION NEEDED TO COMBAT WAVE OF KIDNAPPINGS WHICH NOW TERRORIZING MEDELLIN (TWO MORE HAVE OCCURRED, OCT. 1X\*18 AND 22), BUT ALSO TOTAL LACK OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA FOLLOWING HIS RECENT COURAGEOUS

ATTACK ON CHAOTIC UNIVERSITY CONDITIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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